

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 21

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO CREATE A  
TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE OF WOMEN'S  
HEALTH FOR THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the national state-by-state report card on  
women's health for 2004, which examines and grades thirty-four  
status indicators of women's health based on overall benchmarks  
drawn from the health objectives set for the nation by the  
United States department of health and human services' healthy  
people 2010 agenda, has graded New Mexico "failing" or  
"unsatisfactory" in nineteen of the thirty-four indicators; and

WHEREAS, the status indicators measured are in the  
following four categories: women's access to health care  
services; addressing wellness and prevention; key health  
conditions, including key causes of death, chronic health

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1 conditions, reproductive health, mental health, and violence  
2 against women; and living in a healthy community; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico received failing or unsatisfactory  
4 grades in all four of the status indicator categories; and

5 WHEREAS, the same report card evaluates the performance  
6 of state governments in promoting sixty-seven policy indicators  
7 on women's health, including statutes, regulations, policies  
8 and programs that address the problems identified by the four  
9 categories of health status indicators, and has rated New  
10 Mexico as "meets policy" in only twenty-eight of the sixty-  
11 seven indicators; and

12 WHEREAS, a total of nineteen states currently have offices  
13 of women's health, including the neighboring states of Texas,  
14 Arizona and Colorado; and

15 WHEREAS, state offices of women's health can serve many  
16 different functions, including developing agendas on women's  
17 health issues; providing policy guidance to the governor, state  
18 legislature and department of health; serving as a  
19 clearinghouse and resource for information on women's health  
20 for the public; and funding and overseeing direct health care  
21 services benefiting women; and

22 WHEREAS, multiple governmental, nongovernmental and  
23 grassroots organizations in the state are engaged in the  
24 provision and advocacy of services for women and endeavor to  
25 increase coordination of their activities and reduce

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1 duplication of effort; and

2 WHEREAS, women's health services in Santa Fe has been  
3 designated and funded since 2001 by the federal department of  
4 health and human services office of women's health as a  
5 community center of excellence in women's health, one of only  
6 fourteen in the nation; and

7 WHEREAS, the mission of a community center of excellence  
8 in women's health is to unite promising approaches in women's  
9 health through the integration of:

- 10 A. comprehensive, gender-specific health service  
11 delivery;
- 12 B. training for lay and professional health  
13 providers;
- 14 C. community-based research;
- 15 D. public education and outreach;
- 16 E. leadership development for women as health care  
17 consumers and providers; and
- 18 F. technical assistance to ensure the replication  
19 of promising models and strategies at the community level and  
20 to improve health outcomes for underserved women;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the commission on the status of women  
23 be requested to create a task force to study the establishment  
24 of an office of women's health for New Mexico; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force review the

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1 methods of developing women's health policy and service  
2 delivery in an effective and comprehensive fashion to promote  
3 health and reduce the burden of preventable disease and injury  
4 among the women and girls of New Mexico, including the  
5 following focus areas:

6 A. development of a comprehensive framework for  
7 women's health policy and programs that reflects the current  
8 research on the health status of women in New Mexico and is  
9 representative of the needs of women and girls throughout the  
10 state;

11 B. enhancement of policy and resource development  
12 by facilitating communication among various state departments  
13 and programs, local health departments and community  
14 organizations, and by providing technical assistance to  
15 government agencies and the legislature;

16 C. support and coordination of the activities of  
17 the women's health council that provides policy recommendations  
18 to the governor and the secretary of health on women's health  
19 issues;

20 D. facilitation of women's health programs within  
21 New Mexico in order to identify duplication or gaps in services  
22 and to improve coordination of services to create a seamless  
23 delivery system based on key health concerns of women;

24 E. conveying information on women's health  
25 resources and organizations to policymakers and the general

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1 public; and

2 F. providing administrative support for a New  
3 Mexico women's health survey for the purpose of collecting,  
4 analyzing and disseminating information to guide  
5 decision-making about women's health by public health  
6 professionals and policymakers; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be made up of  
8 representatives of the commission on the status of women; the  
9 department of health; the New Mexico health policy commission;  
10 the children, youth and families department; the human services  
11 department; the Indian affairs department; the veterans'  
12 services department; other agencies and commissions within New  
13 Mexico government, as appropriate; women's health services,  
14 inc.; women's health and human services advocacy groups; and  
15 other appropriate advocacy groups; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its  
17 findings to the legislative health and human services committee  
18 by October 2005; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to the governor and the secretaries and directors  
21 of the following: the commission on the status of women; the  
22 department of health; the New Mexico health policy commission;  
23 the children, youth and families department; the human services  
24 department; the Indian affairs department; the veterans'  
25 services department; the aging and long-term services

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1 department; the corrections department; the general services  
2 department; and other agencies and commissions within New  
3 Mexico government, as appropriate.

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